GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2807
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
DR. ABHAY BANG COMMITTEE ON MALNUTRITION AND CHILD MORTALITY
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has studied the recommendations made by Dr. Abhay Bang Committee to check malnutrition and child mortality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to implement the recommendations made by the said Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) A Committee headed by Dr. Abhay Bang was constituted on 12.12.2003 by the Government of Maharashtra to look into infant mortality and malnutrition in the State. The Committee submitted its first report on 24.08.2004 and second report on 24.04.2005.

Action taken by the Government of Maharashtra on the recommendations of Dr. Abhay Bang Committee are annexed.

Annexure

Dr. Abhay Bang Committee, recommendations (first report) deals with the 100% reporting of child deaths and the second report recommendations deal with the actions to be taken to decrease child malnutrition and deaths in the State.

Some of the major recommendations are as follows:

1. Giving priority to underserved, deprived groups.

2. Carry out reforms in the integrated and child development scheme,

3. Transparency in transfers of workers and officers with an interval of 3 years.

4. Strict implementation of the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and Child Marriage Act

5. Health education to the tribal.

6. 6 monthly de-worming and vitamin A drive.

7. Strengthening of urban health infrastructure

8. Involvement of NGOs and Mahila Mandals in health schemes

9 Evaluation of the different schemes and data by an external agency

10. Consider female community health volunteer

11. Home based neonatal care.

Regarding the recommendations concerning Health and other departments, joint discussions were held with the concerned departments and action taken on the recommendations is given as under.

1. Rajmata Jijau Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Mission has been established (to address malnutrition and infant mortality).

2. Increasing the number as well as training of Anganwadi workers etc are being implemented

3. Government Orders regarding the transfer policy have been issued and are being implemented

4. PCPNDT Act is being implemented with more than 1500 Appropriate Authorities along with State Appropriate Authority are monitoring the program.6352 centers are registered under the Act and 101 cases have been filed in the court

5. Health Educational material prepared by State health education bureau is being used for bringing about awareness among communities.

6. Deworming and vitamin A drive is being implemented in the State every 6 months

7. The number of health posts in urban areas are being increased and the contractual ANMs are being appointed

8. Mother NGOs have been appointed for almost all districts in the state and Service NGOs have been appointed for 7 districts and the rest are being appointed

9. Maharashtra Health Science University is being consulted for independent evaluation of the different health schemes.

10. In place of community health volunteer, 139 Arogya Sakhis have been appointed, female pada volunteers in the tribal areas are being trained, 9000 ASHAs are being appointed.

11. Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illness (IMNCI) initiatives is being implemented in State as a major step towards reduction of Infant Morbidity and Infant Mortality in 15 Tribal & 8 Non-tribal districts in Maharashtra State.